

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 97-136-E - ORDER NO. 97-305  
APRIL 11, 1997

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JL

IN RE: Application of Duke Power Company for ) ORDER  
Approval to Revise Schedules RT, GT, ) APPROVING  
IT, and OPT. ) REVISIONS

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Duke Power Company (Duke or the Company) for revisions to its time-of-use schedules to implement a single season change date beginning in June 1997.

According to the Company, Duke's time-of-use rate schedules have, since their inception, maintained a summer/winter rate differential and peak hours that varied between summer months and winter months. Historically, Duke has determined the application of the summer and winter billing period on the basis of the customer's billing cycle due to system limitations. Duke is in the process of modifying its system so that it can implement a single season change date for time-of-use customers beginning in June 1997. Therefore, Duke is requesting a change in its time-of-use schedules RT, GT, IT, and OPT to change from the current practice to one which bills customers on the summer rates from June 1st through September 30th and the winter rates from October 1st through May 31st. Additionally, Duke will implement a

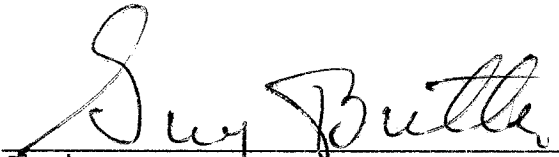
new bill form that is capable of handling the expanded billing data. According to Duke, the change will simplify the application and administration of these rates both for customers and the Company. Currently, the customer is notified each year of the season change date based on the scheduled meter reading date which can vary from year to year. For the single day, customers can better plan by knowing that each year the date will be the same. Duke also states its belief that it will achieve some efficiencies with this change. Currently, meter programs with different dates must be maintained for each of the 20 monthly billing cycles. This change will significantly reduce the number of meter programs, and will avoid the possibility of the customer receiving the wrong program for his billing cycle, especially when rerouting of accounts occurs. Duke has submitted copies of revised schedules showing season change dates as June 1st and October 1st, and eliminating the paragraph that refers to billing cycles as a determination of the season. Under the proposed revision, the demand charges bills in the season change months will be prorated between the summer and winter rates based on the number of days and the billing determinants for each season. Duke plans to implement the change effective June 1, 1997, but requests Commission's approval of the change at its earliest convenience to allow time to notify customers of the change.

The Commission has examined this matter, and believes that Duke states good cause for the proposed changes. No notice or hearing is required under the present circumstances. Therefore,

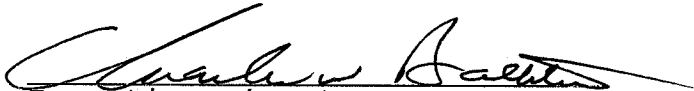
the Commission grants the request as filed. The Company shall file ten (10) copies of the revised schedules within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)